DEWAN : The District Magistrate has already recommended the doubling of the rates. Government will consider that matter.

As regards the opening of additional pounds, the District Magistrate has recommended the establishment of one more pound, and the Government, intending to deal with the question in a comprehensive way, asked the District Magistrate to say how many more pounds were necessary and to forward a full report. The report of the District Magistrate has since been received and it is seen therefrom that the Association would like to have eight more new pounds established at the following places :—

Devicolam Division.	*Kottayam Division.*
1. Manikal estate.	5. Nenmeny.
2. Boyce estate.	6. Kuttikal estate.
3. Mundakayam estate (2 pounds)	7. Teckoy estate.
4. Cheruvalli.	

The Secretary of the Association has also stated that the members of the Association would be prepared to meet the cost, etc., of the upkeep of the pounds and to put up the necessary buildings and that their delegate to the S. M. P. Assembly would give further details, if necessary. We have the necessary information about additional pounds. Now the question resolves itself into this, namely whether these pounds should be constructed and managed by the Government, or whether you should construct and maintain them and levy the fees prescribed. I am not in a position to answer that question at once. I will examine that question and say whether the Government should establish and manage these pounds taking from you the deficit, if any, or whether they could be handed over to the estates staff, they being declared to be pound keepers and empowered to distrain as well as release cattle on the recovery of fines. That point will be examined.

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20. Registration of Bullock Carts.

MR. J. R. VINCENT (*Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association*) urged the necessity for the registration of bullock carts. The carelessness and malpractices of cart drivers were well-known ; and their ignorance of the rules of the road should be remedied by subjecting them, as in Ceylon, to a *viva voce* examination when the license was granted. To detect offenders easily, owners should be obliged to have the license number or their name and address prominently displayed on the cart. It was anomalous that only motor vehicles should be registered. Traffic conditions had changed so radically within the past twenty years that it had become urgently necessary to provide for its better and more careful regulation and control. Large numbers of vehicles running at great speed were on the roads, and it was essential to extend the rules relating to the registration of vehicles in towns and those observed by motor vehicles to embrace every class of vehicle whether in the town or the country. The member concluded by stating that his proposal had the hearty approval of the other delegates of Planting Associations present at the Assembly.

DEWAN : The question that you have raised is a very important one. It must be admitted that the conditions of vehicular traffic have changed considerably during the last twenty years and that, after the introduction of motor transport, traffic conditions have altered considerably. The difficulty, however, consists in enforcing the rules in the mofussil. In towns, we, no doubt, register all kinds of vehicles partly because they are liable to vehicle tax.

MEMBER : Is there any objection to this being extended to the mofussil ?

DEWAN : I cannot see much objection except that it will involve a large establishment. It is an expenditure which perhaps will necessitate some taxation, and that will be resented very much. These are the matters which have to be considered. Secondly, if you lay down rules for the people owning and driving carts as to how they should overtake carts and pass them, those that do not obey the rules must be

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promptly dealt with. The difficulty is to enforce the rules of the road in the mofussil and on long roads where there is very little of police supervision. I do not know what measures the Ceylon Government have adopted for enforcing these rules. Anyhow, it is a matter which deserves careful consideration; and Government will examine the matter.

MEMBER: When will the Association know the result of the action?

DEWAN: It is a matter which will take time. This Government may have to communicate with other Governments and get details as to how the rules are being worked elsewhere.

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21. Administration of Justice.

MR. NARAYANARU KRISHNARU (*Member, Jenmies, Trivandrum Division*) made the following suggestions for the improvement of the working of the Judicial Department.

(i) Interest should be allowed on the plaint amount from the date of institution of the suit to the date of judgment in cases where the arrears of interest had accumulated to fifty per cent. of the capital, or a higher rate than six per cent. should be decreed.

(ii) The *nirak* statements prepared in the taluk offices did not agree with the actual market rates and should be reconciled with them.

(iii) Adjournment should be granted, without formal application, for the filing of written statements, if summonses had not been served within the prescribed period of seven days for small cause suits and fourteen days for others.

(iv) Rules should be framed fixing the maximum period that may be allowed to lapse between the filing of the written statement and the framing of issues and between the recording of evidence and the pronouncement of judgment.

(v) Stricter arrangements should be made for noting the attendance of witnesses present; and those who could not be examined the same day should be relieved early.

(vi) Commissioners should be granted the daily *batta* and mileage allowed to first class officers. Officers of the Agricultural Department should be appointed to conduct commission enquiries regarding agricultural improvements on land, officers of the P. W. D. to assess buildings, etc., Proverticars to conduct survey, etc, and other persons at the discretion of the court for the examination of witnesses, etc.

(vii) The originals of unregistered documents handed over to the custody of courts were occasionally tampered with. Attested copies alone need be kept in court and the originals should be arranged to be returned to the parties.

(viii) A receipt should be given for the stamp value on plaints.

(ix) The production of certified copies of *chittas* should not be enforced in the case of *Brahmaswom* and *Devaswom* lands, as the particulars required could be obtained from the printed Settlement Registers.

(x) As the *jenmi* had got priority over all others except the Sirkar, the registered certificate for auction sales now required by courts should be dispensed with.

(xi) Hearing notes should be arranged to be filed, both for the convenience of the court and in the interests of the client.

(xii) The rule fixing the minimum monthly disposal of Munsiffs at 40 cases should be modified. It would be enough if 25 contested cases were disposed of on the merits, without giving occasion for retrial, remand or review.

(xiii) Calendar revision and vakil's fees should be allowed in respect of small cause suits.

(xiv) Courts should be compelled to pronounce judgment on a specified day after the arguments were over. The present indefiniteness in the matter led to irregularities and caused great hardship to clients. Courts might, of course, be

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